view, a nominal import duty of 10% has been imposed on imported newsprint. Considering the fact that the price of imported newsprint has fallen by about 50%, the imposition of 10% import duty is not likely to cause undue hardship to the medium, vernacular and small newspapers.

(d) and (e). The newspaper industry has represented against the above levy of customs duty. The Government is keeping a close watch on the international price of newsprint and when the international prices rise, the Government will review the present levy.

Gaslitand Disaster

526. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Court of Enquiry was conducted to enquire the causes of accident in Gaslitand of BCCL mine on 27.9.1995;

(b) if so, whether it has submitted the report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Under Section 24 of the Mines Act, 1952, the Government had constituted a Court of Inquiry headed by Justice (retd.) S.K. Mukherjee of Patna High Court to inquire into the causes and circumstances attending the accident which occurred at Gaslitand and other mines of Bharat Coking Coal Limited on 26/27.9.95. The Court of Inquiry is yet to submit its report.

(c) Does not arise in view of above.

Vigilance Machinery in PSUs

527. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the vigilance machinery in the Public Sector Undertakings has been strengthened;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether officials of this machinery have been granted some special facilities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e). Strengthening Vigilance Machinery in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) is a continuous process. Besides conferring the status equivalent to that of a functional director to the Executive Director (Vigilance)/Chief Vigilance Officers of the level of Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India and above in PSUs, the Govt. has recently empowered them to exercise sch administrative and financial powers as are essential for the efficient functioning of Vigilance Machinery subject to the condition that financial powers are exercised within the allotted budget to the vigilance unit and in accordance with the financial discipline and accountability at par with other functional directors. They will also be entitled to such accommodation which is available to other functional directors in PSUs.

Coal Stocks

528. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the system adopted by Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries in estimation of stocks is faulty and misleading as various Committees have adversely commented on the system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the authorities that the stocks estimated by subsidiaries of Coal India Limited were highly inflated and manipulated;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the responsibility fixed by the Government against those who have manipulated the stock position, subsidiaries-wise; and

(e) the effective measures taken/proposed to be taken for correct assessment of stocks in various subsidiaries particularly in Bharat Coking Coal Limited, Eastern and Western Coalfields Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The system adopted by Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries in estimation of stocks is not faulty. However, in every system, there is always a scope for further improvement as has been suggested by some Committees.

(b) Some of the major system improvement suggestions relate to the separation of the functions of the Manager of each colliery and the Agent, additional test measurements over the annual measurement, restriction of stock in each colliery to maximum one month's production, computerisation of colliery operations, installation of road weighbridges etc.

(c) and (d). It has come to the notice of the authorities that in some collieries in some collieries in some subsidiaries the production has been over reported. Disciplinary action against persons responsible for over reporting and resultant stock shortages has been initiated. 56 cases in Eastern Coalfields Limited, 51 in Bharat Coking Coal Limited, 49 in Central Coalfields Limited and 8 in Western Coalfields Limited have been started.

(e) Measures taken to improve the system have been indicated in answer to part (b) of the Question.

[Translation]

Capital Market

529. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government/SEBI have received